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REMARKS

Applicant really appreciates Examiner for the arduous work to examine the present application and allow claims 9 and 10.

In the prior Office Actions, especially the first Office Action, the independent claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.S.C.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Terita (4,681,392) and claims 7-8 are rejected under § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Terita.

In response, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections for the following reasons:

Claims 1-6 have been canceled.

In regard to claim 7:

Claim 7 calls for a compliant section 12 comprising a pair of slots 122 extending through said compliant section in a thickness direction of said compliant section which is perpendicular to said longitudinal direction. According to FIGS. 5-8 of Terita in which the wings (24) are formed by bending the flange (23), Terita essentially discloses a pair of slots NOT extending through the compliant section in a thickness direction but being blocked by the flange (23) around the junction portion with the center web (22). Thus, claim 7 should be patentable over the cited prior art.

In regard to claim 8:

Claim 8 should be allowable since it is dependent from claim 7, directly.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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